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I am Robert M. Woods and I am an over 35 year veteran teacher most of those years at Central HS In Bridgeport. I am writing in support of Raised Bill 948 the act addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity. I have taught during the crack epidemic when violence in the streets of Bridgeport made going to school a risk. As a basketball coach for the State Championship Girls Basketball Team I drove eight and nine players home in my Toyota truck to their homes in Beardsly Terrace and Father Panic Village because my players parents were working two sometimes three jobs and were unable to attend games. I was one of three coaches doing that.

This past year has shown me that the racial divide of this country is as far as it ever was but in all crises there is opportunity. There are teachers at Central spending hundreds if not thousands of their own dollars every year to provide supplies or technology not available from the administration. That is more the rule not the exception. There is a will to do good but it has to be matched by government. We have that opportunity here and now. The will to work is there, the tools to improve are in your hands.